



## HAZARDS UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Hazard research and emergency management news and information

### Current Projects

#### Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group formed for the Wellington Region

On May 15 the CDEM Group for the Wellington Region was formed. The meeting of all councils, emergency services, health providers and other responders was the first step towards a closer working relationship in this Region. The major task of the CDEM Group in the next two years will be the development of a joint CDEM Group Plan. This plan will begin with a strategic analysis of the hazards, risks and vulnerabilities of the Wellington Region. The plan will set the framework for the mitigation programmes and operational planning that need to be put in place to address our hazards. Input will be needed from all organisations that have a role in managing emergencies. The public will also have an opportunity to provide their input through a formal consultation process.



#### Revising the Region's Radios

A project to upgrade the regional CDEM radio communications system is underway. The existing GWRC system needs to be expanded to

make sure it can talk to all the necessary emergency agencies as well as critical lifelines organisations. A suitable system will be decided upon by December this year with implementation to begin in June 2004.

### Recent Reports

#### Store more water for longer

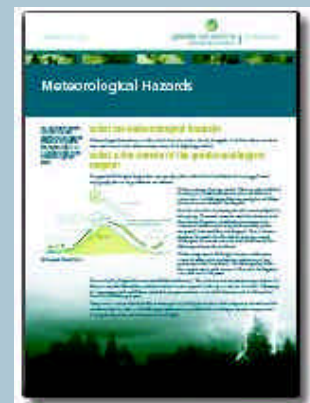
That is the message from the GWRC water supply engineer John Morrison following a detailed study on the effects of a large earthquake on the water supply systems of our Region. "We want 100% of individuals and organisations to store more water," says John. "If a big quake hit tomorrow, councils could struggle to restore full water supplies for several weeks. The long-standing advice that households store three litres of water per person for three days is only enough for immediate survival, but more would be needed for such things as cooking and personal hygiene".

### New Hazard Fact Sheets

Four new fact sheets have been added to our series and two more are on their way.

The new fact sheets cover Climate Change Hazards, Meteorological Hazards, Flooding in the Wairarapa and a general flooding fact sheet.

We are in the process of writing two more fact sheets covering flooding in Kapiti and the Hutt Valley. These should be out by September.



## Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Report

On Friday 16 May, the Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Association launched their project report at a meeting held in Masterton. The report, titled *Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Project - Risk to Lifelines from Natural Hazards*, will be a key Wairarapa reference on natural hazards and their mitigation. The challenge now lies with each council and utility owner to consider the outcomes of the report and work towards increasing the resilience of their networks to natural hazards. Copies of the report will be distributed to all those involved with the project. For extra copies please contact Greater Wellington.

The Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Association is continuing to operate as a lifelines group in support of the people and communities of the Wairarapa. The Association also assists the Wellington Emergency Management Group.

## Recent events

### Busy bees move from the Beehive

The GWRC Emergency Management Department has been on the move. Rian van Schalkwyk and Debbie Cunningham are now located on Level 4 of the GWRC building in Wakefield Street. Their Emergency Operations Centre has also moved to Level 4, after the Beehive facility had to be vacated to make way for the new government Crisis Management Centre.



## Stakeholder Needs Analysis Project

Meetings have taken place, workshops held, and communities surveyed to find out what they think of our hazard and emergency management information.

We have now received feedback from our key stakeholders in the Region such as territorial authorities, utility companies and related professionals, emergency services and a sample of the Region's community.

Key findings are that every stakeholder group has different needs, although the common comment was that people are not aware of the hazard and emergency management information that we hold.

## Community Hazard Survey

UMR have completed a telephone survey of a sample of the Region's community as part of the Stakeholder Needs Analysis Project. It split up the Region into the Wairarapa, Kapiti, Porirua, Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt and Wellington areas.

The main findings were that there was a reasonably low level of knowledge of the activities undertaken by GWRC in the area of hazard management and awareness. As a consequence, there will be more marketing of our hazard role in the future.

Having said that, those who did know that GWRC was a provider of hazard information rated our information highly.

We found that people under 30 years of age and flatters were the groups with the lowest ratings in preparedness. An example of this is only 36% of these people store water compared with 67% overall.

An interesting finding was that those people that had no intention to prepare for hazards did not think even publicity or advertising would spur them into action!

To find out more about this survey, contact Rylee Pettersson at the Wellington office, or come along to the presentation on 25 June.

## Project presentation

The main findings, issues and solutions will be presented on Wednesday 25 June, 2pm at the Greater Wellington Regional Council offices at 142-146 Wakefield Street. We will also be having a presentation from UMR Research who conducted the community telephone survey and the focus groups.

The presentation will include a discussion on the ways we are hoping to progress the recommendations in terms of information transfer and dissemination.

If you wish to attend this presentation, please RSVP to Rylee Pettersson at: rylee.pettersson@gw.govt.nz or call (04) 384 5708. Please RSVP by Friday June 13.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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